

177. (new) The system of Claim 93 wherein said information is gathered by said computer over an Internet connection.

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178. (new) The system of Claim 93 wherein said computer comprises a user interface, wherein said software is further operable to gather at least a portion of said information through said user interface.

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179. (new) The system of Claim 178 wherein said user interface comprises at least one member from the group consisting of a query form, a button, a touchscreen, a display screen, and a paper form reader with an associated paper form.

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REMARKS - General

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By the above preliminary amendment, applicants have corrected typographical errors in the specification and supplied additional claims to define the invention more particularly and distinctly so as to define the invention patentably over the prior art.

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Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance

Applicants have amended the claims of this application so that they are in proper form, definite, and define novel structure which is also unobvious. If, for any reason this


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application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicants respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 2173.02 and § 707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,

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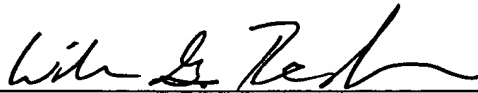
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Attachement: Appendix to Amendment A With Replacement Paragraphs Marked-Up to Indicate Changes

Appendix to Amendment A

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With Replacement Paragraphs Marked-Up to Indicate Changes

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With Replacement Paragraphs Marked-Up to Indicate Changes

5 Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

10 Pursuant to Rule 121, the following is a copy of all
paragraphs amended by the attached Attachment A, with all
the changes indicated by bracketing deletions and
underlining additions:

15 Paragraph 0017, replace with the following new paragraph:

--The Walt Disney theme parks make use of a
system called ["FastPass,"] FASTPASS® described
by Laval et al. in U.S. Pat. No. 6,173,209.
20 Visitors to a park can either enter the regular
queue for an attraction, or they can obtain an
express pass to use the express queue. The
express pass has a time period during which it is
valid. The visitor must present the express pass
25 during the indicated time period in order to
bypass the queue and be admitted to the
attraction. Obtaining an express pass is achieved
by the visitor presenting an ID of some sort, to
a kiosk near the ride. An express pass is issued,
30 bearing the next available reservation time. No
further express passes will be issued to an ID

until the existing express pass has expired.
Thus, a "first-come, first-served" virtual queue
is created, and the visitor can be in only one
virtual queue at a time.

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Paragraph 0024, replace with the following new paragraph:

--Another disadvantage of systems like Laval and
Mahoney, is that they do not mitigate unequal
demand for various attractions. An extremely
popular attraction may find that its ["FastPass"]
FASTPASS® reservations for the entire operating
day are dispensed within an hour of the
facility's opening. Meanwhile, other attractions
may not exhaust their allotment of reservations.

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Paragraph 0037, replace with the following new paragraph:

--A system or method is needed that allows [a] an
unfamiliar visitor to receive a near optimal
experience, suited to his (or his party's)
tastes, schedule, needs, and limitations. The
experience should give a proper overview of the
facility, so a tourist does not return feeling
that they have missed a key element.

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Paragraph 0073, replace with the following new paragraph:

--In addition to the above, it is an object of
this invention to accommodate attractions of
various types. This includes specifically located

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attractions, such as rides, lookout points,
diffusely located attractions such as a fireworks
display or parade, or multiply located
attractions such as shopping or dining. It
5 includes discretely scheduled attractions, such
as theaters with specific show times,
continuously available attractions (e.g. a
fountain), and attractions with limited
[availablility] availability (e.g. a trail that
10 closes 1/2 hour before sundown).

Paragraph 0148, replace with the following new paragraph:

--Optionally, a pass form 600 may recognize a
15 sequence of touch operations that an attraction
operator may perform that will expend a displayed
pass for the current event. An example of such a
touch operation (not shown) would be drawing a
large circle on touchscreen 140 clockwise, from
20 the top, while pass form 600 is displayed. This
might be followed by three taps in the center of
the circle, and another large circle, but drawn
counterclockwise from the top. Such a gesture, or
other method for entering a security code, many
25 of which are known to the art, would make a mark
(not shown) [the] to indicate that the displayed
pass has been "spent". Usually this is not
necessary, as experiencing an attraction often
takes longer than the period for which a pass is
30 valid. Further, upon exiting an attraction there
will generally be another event in the itinerary

and the party will not have time to re-enter the attraction for a repeat experience.

Paragraph 0155, replace with the following new paragraph:

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--Alternatively, the party may be supplied with a printed series of pass forms 600, making essentially a customized ticket book, having the same information printed on each paper pass as was displayed on the analogous electronic version (except time-of-day 410). If desired by facility operations, single person passes can be generated for each individual in a party, rather than one multi-person pass for the whole party. To deter fraud and perhaps enable mechanical devices known to the art to control access to the attraction, the [authetication] authentication code or signature on pass form 600 (not shown) may be expressed in printed form as a barcode. This embodiment is particularly attractive if it closely resembles the attraction admission media already extant in a facility. When appropriate to the access control system, the event data related to the printed pass forms is inserted as records into the access control databases of the prior art such as Laval, et al. The authentication codes, on the printed pass forms expressed as printed barcodes, are also recorded. By so doing, the printed passes can function as if they were attraction admission media of the prior art, thereby allowing admission media of the present

invention to function as, and in parallel with,
admission media of the prior art.

Paragraph 0156, replace with the following new paragraph:

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--In a similar embodiment, a party is issued an
identification card or, if preferred by the
facility operator, a card is issued to each
individual in a party. In the same manner as
10 above, event data is inserted as records into the
database of the prior art such as Mahoney et al.,
and tied to the cards issued to the party. In
this manner, the cards [issue] issued to the
party operate as, and in parallel with,
15 attraction access media of the prior art.

Paragraph 0172, replace with the following new paragraph:

--For each attraction, attraction database 1000
20 includes a theoretical hourly ride capacity
(THRC) or other measure to indicate the capacity
of an attraction to handle visitors. Such
measures are well known in the art, and are
commonly expressed as the number of [seat] seats
25 in a ride vehicle times 3600 divided by the
dispatch interval in seconds. For theaters or
venues with specific, scheduled times when the
attraction begins (like a parade or fireworks
show), the holding capacity of the attraction
30 venue may be used. For such attractions, a
showtimes field 1024 indicates how many shows are

5 given during the day. This information is used to
allocated demand evenly when creating
itineraries. In another database (not shown), the
actual start times for scheduled attractions are
10 listed. For those attractions which are
continuously running and which are not scheduled,
the showtimes field 1024 contains "c", for
continuously running. A zero would indicate that
an attraction of either type is not available
10 today.

Paragraph 0176, replace with the following new paragraph:

15 --Also, if queue delays are known to vary by hour
or by facility attendance, these complexities can
also be included. Rather than finding a simple
number of seconds delay in queue field 1026,
itinerary generation may access a function for
the expected queue delay. Such a function may
20 take as parameters the attraction, access class,
the day's expected attendance, and time-of-day.
Since the queue being examined is determined by
the attraction and access class, the actual
analysis is essentially reduced to the two-
25 variable "attendance and time-of-day [product]
produce what queue delay" problem. A function
such as this could be built by selecting an
appropriate surface to be fitted to empirical
data gathered from the attraction. Operators of
30 most facilities have such historical operational
data readily available. Further, such a function

could access actual, current queue information as it becomes available and whenever an itinerary is revised.

5 Paragraph 0203, replace with the following new paragraph:

--One way of [insuring] ensuring that the allocated capacity of an attraction is not exceeded by itineraries generated which include
10 that attraction, is to centrally manage itinerary generation. As the attraction capacity allocated to a visitor class during an interval is approached, a synthetic aversion factor is increased which lowers the desirability of
15 inserting an event into an itinerary having a time in that interval for that attraction. When the capacity for an attraction during a particular interval has been reached, the synthetic aversion factor is such that the
20 attraction is utterly undesirable.

Paragraph 0216, replace with the following new paragraph:

--It will be recognized that other functions,
25 perhaps driven by [useage] usage data, attraction capacity, or other accumulated information can be constructed and used to diffuse or moderate demand.

30 Paragraph 0253, replace with the following new paragraph:

5 --Process 1400 will be recognized by those
skilled in the art as a width-first locally-
optimized search strategy. It will be obvious to
those artists that some of the operations, such
as determining the path having the shortest
travel time are computationally expensive tasks.
Further, it will be observed that the doubly
nested loop makes the process presented into an
10 $O(n^2)$ problem. Both of these and other
inefficiencies will be considered targets for
optimization. It should be noted, however, that
for small or moderate sized facilities such as
the exemplary facility of map 800, the
[combinametric] combinatorial issues are
15 tractable with modern processor speeds. Some of
the optimizations discussed in Libby, especially
the binning techniques, will be found suitable
for application to the itinerary generation
process 1400.

20 Paragraph 0260, replace with the following new paragraph:

25 --Often, a group visiting a facility may wish to
experience attractions separately, but later
regroup for a meal. Subsequently, the group may
break up again and continue to experience
attractions and regroup again only at their
departure time. Such [an] a desire can be
accommodated by generating for each party the
30 group breaks into, a first itinerary to which
terminates at the common meal event (e.g.

"<lunch>", as if it were the "Exit" event previously discussed. Thus all first itineraries converge at the same meal event. A second itinerary is also generated for each party. The
5 second itinerary picks up after the common meal event, but the generation of subsequent events retains the history of the events of the first itinerary, so that attractions are not duplicated. The second itineraries converge [a]
10 at the common departure time.